

May 7, 2001

Ms. Maurine McLaughlin
Office of Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street NW, Room 8046
Washington, DC 20006
VIA FACSIMILE

Re: Application No. 84.031A – Northeast Mississippi Community College's
Strengthening Student Support Services Initiative

Dear Ms. McLaughlin:

I am pleased to offer my support to Northeast Mississippi Community College in securing approximately \$1.5 million via a Title III Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. Northeast will use these funds over a five-year period to implement its *Strengthening Student Support Services Initiative*.

Northeast has recognized that high rates of attrition among increasing numbers of under prepared and at-risk students threaten the college's long-term self-sufficiency. Northeast is responding to this problem by expanding its services to students and adapting its curriculum. Northeast's *Strengthening Student Support Services Initiative* will improve student success and retention by strengthening the college's instructional program and support services to students, as well as its faculty and staff development.

I believe that Northeast Mississippi Community College's *Strengthening Student Support Services Initiative* is worthy of your resources. I urge you to contribute to this endeavor. I am pleased to offer support for this project. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr